



City of Edmonds

Community Services Department

Date: January 14, 2003
To: Mayor Haakenson, City Council members
From: Stephen Clifton, AICP, Community Services Director
Subject: Community Services Quarterly Report – January 2004

As requested by the City Council, this report provides an update on major projects currently being worked on by Community Services Department staff.

I. EDMONDS CROSSING

Project Description

Edmonds Crossing is a regional project intended to provide a long-term solution to current operational and safety conflicts between ferry, rail, automobile, bus, and pedestrian traffic in downtown Edmonds. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) (including Washington State Ferries [WSF]), and the City of Edmonds propose to relocate the existing state ferry terminal from Main Street, in downtown Edmonds, to another site farther from the downtown core. In the process, a multimodal center would be established that would integrate ferry, rail, and transit services into a single complex. A realigned SR 104 from its current intersection with Pine Street would provide access. The new complex would provide an upgraded ferry terminal designed to meet the operational requirements for accommodating forecast ferry ridership demand; a new rail station designed to meet intercity (Amtrak) passenger service and commuter rail (Sounder) loading requirements; a transit center that would meet local bus system and regional transit system loading requirements; facilities that allow both vehicular commuters and walk-on passengers to utilize various transportation modes; parking, drop-off areas, retail/concessionaire space, and waiting areas; and a system linking these facilities to allow for the safe movement of users.

Significant Activities Since October 16, 2003

- City staff and consultants continue(d) to work on a variety of issues in preparation for the next Signatory Agency Committee (SAC) in Olympia, Washington. In order to move forward and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), SAC members must express their support for Concurrence Point #3 (the last phase of the National Environmental Policy Act Merger Agreement process).

- October, November and December, 2003 – City staff attended meetings with representatives from Snohomish County to discuss Snohomish County's portion of the proposed Snohomish, King and Pierce County Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) funding scenarios. City staff will continue to attend these meetings when scheduled.

The RTID Executive Board is still deciding whether to place the RTID package on the ballot in the fall of 2004. Additional information on this issue is available via the internet at <http://www.rtid.dst.wa.us>

- October 17, 2003 - City, WSF, WSDOT, Federal Highway Administration, and CH2M Hill staff met with representatives from the Tulalip and Suquamish Tribes to discuss project mitigation and the environmental process.
- November 25, 2003 - City, WSF, WSDOT, CH2M Hill and Washington State Attorney General staff met to discuss project mitigation and the environmental process.
- December 4, 2003 – City, WSF, WSDOT, Federal Highway Administration staff met to discuss the Edmonds Crossing project, working through the Environmental Impact Statement process and negotiations with various Tribes.
- December 19, 2003 - City, WSF, WSDOT, Federal Highway Administration, and CH2M Hill staff met with representatives from the Tulalip and Suquamish Tribes to discuss project mitigation and the environmental process.

II. SOUND TRANSIT

Project Description

During the past few years, Sound Transit has been implementing what is called the *Sound Move* Plan. One element calls for commuter rail services, otherwise known as Sounder. Commuter rail will eventually link Everett in the north with Seattle, Tacoma and Lakewood in the South, a total of 82 miles through three counties. Sounder is being implemented in three phases, one of which includes Everett to Seattle. Three commuter rail stations are planned along this corridor, i.e., Everett, Mukilteo and Edmonds.

The Edmonds Station will be located between the existing Amtrak Station and Main Street along both sides of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) tracks. The budget is \$8.062 million in 2001 dollars which has/will pay for environmental review, preliminary and final designs prepared by Streeter Architects, permitting, construction, and station elements such as ticket vending machines, platforms, canopies, parking, storm drainage control, lighting, signage, landscaping, etc. Station art, which will be provided on site, is a separate budget.

Everett-Seattle Sounder, at full operation, now calls for 8 trains per day (or four round trips) and will include reverse trips. This is a reduction of two round trips from the originally proposed operational plan. Initial service will be phased in, starting with one (roundtrip) train per day by the end of 2003.

In an attempt to address future needs in the area, a culvert is proposed to be installed near the Marina Beach property beneath both BNSF Railroad tracks, concurrent with the construction of a second track. This will allow for the eventual daylighting of Willow Creek at the time the Edmonds Crossing project is constructed.

Significant Activities Since October 16, 2003

- December 21, 2003 – Sound Transit officially launched Sound North commuter rail service with a special Sunday train for Seattle Seahawks fans and holiday shoppers. The start of Sounder service in Snohomish County was made possible after Sound Transit completed more than two years of negotiations with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway the previous week. The agreements with BNSF enable commuter rail trains to travel on existing tracks from Seattle to Everett during specific hours of the day in perpetuity - an improvement over the 97-year term of a preliminary agreement announced last spring.
- December 22, 2003 – Sounder North began its first weekday run between Everett and Seattle. Sound Transit expects ridership to build as the public becomes aware of service and the benefits of riding commuter rail. Sound Transit will not be charging commuters to ride Sounder North until February 2, 2004.

2004 Sound Transit Edmonds Station Budget

The proposed 2004 Budget for Sound Transit includes a line item for construction of \$1.6 million in 2004. Sound Transit intends to begin final design and start construction on the west side platform at the station in order to ramp up to full service. Any station construction is based on successful conclusion of ongoing negotiations with BNSF. Upon successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations, and conclusion of the final design phase, Sound Transit plans to proceed with construction as described in the July, 2003 Community Services Quarterly Report.

III. FIRE STATION #16

Project Description

A new fire station located at 8429 - 196th Street SW, Edmonds, Washington. The building footprint is approximately 10,000 square feet. Amenities include office(s), a laundry, apparatus bay area, three (3) fire engine bays, aid and staff apparatus, equipment storage rooms, room, kitchen, dayroom, individual sleeping dorms for up to six firefighters, bathrooms, emergency power plant, and other amenities.

Significant Activities since October 16, 2003

- November 19, 2003 – A public open house was held at the new Fire Station 16. An estimated 200 citizens toured the facility and attended the dedication ceremony. The project was completed on time and under budget. A closeout report will be given to the City Council once all construction contract closeout checklist items have been completed.
- December 23, 2003 - TransTech began installation of Fire Stations 16 and 20 emergency vehicle signals.
- January 9, 2004 – Fire Station 16 and 20 emergency vehicle signals became operational.

IV. UNOCAL SITE CLEANUP

Project Description

The UNOCAL property consists of an upper yard, which contained fuel storage tanks as recently as last year, and a lower yard which currently contains pipes, truck-loading racks, office buildings, etc. Additionally, petroleum contamination also exists in the soil and is floating in, and on top of, ground and surface water, resulting from more than 60 years of operation. Unocal is in the middle stages of cleaning up the site.

Significant Activities since October 16, 2003

- October, November and December 2003 and January 2004 - UNOCAL conducted interim cleanup activities within the lower yard.

V. EDMONDS PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT

Project Description

The City Council, pursuant to state law, approved the formation of the Public Facilities District (PFD) at its April 24, 2001 meeting. A PFD is a separate municipal corporation that has authority to undertake the design, construction, operation, promotion and financing of a Regional Center in the city. The Public Facilities District board consists of five members appointed by the City Council on June 19, 2001.

Significant Activities Since October 16, 2002

- October, November and December 2003 and January 2004 - The PFD Fundraising Campaign Committee continue(d) its focus on fundraising activities.
- December 16, 2003 – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), related to amending the Interlocal Agreement for Development of the Edmonds Center for the Arts, dated November 4, 2002, was fully executed by the City of Edmonds, Edmonds Public Facilities District, Snohomish County, Snohomish County Public Facilities District and Edmonds Community College. The MOU serves as an agreement that the five parties will negotiate in good faith how the Edmonds

Community College could become a tenant in common to the Edmonds Center for the Arts if the Edmonds Community College is successful in obtaining a State Board for Community and Technical Colleges grant in the amount of \$1 million.

- December 30, 2003 – Edmonds PFD and CCF signed closing papers related to the sale of surplus property, i.e., the Library located at the northeast corner of 6th Avenue North and Glen Street. Sale of the Library property completes the goal of selling two surplus properties, the other being the Anchor House.